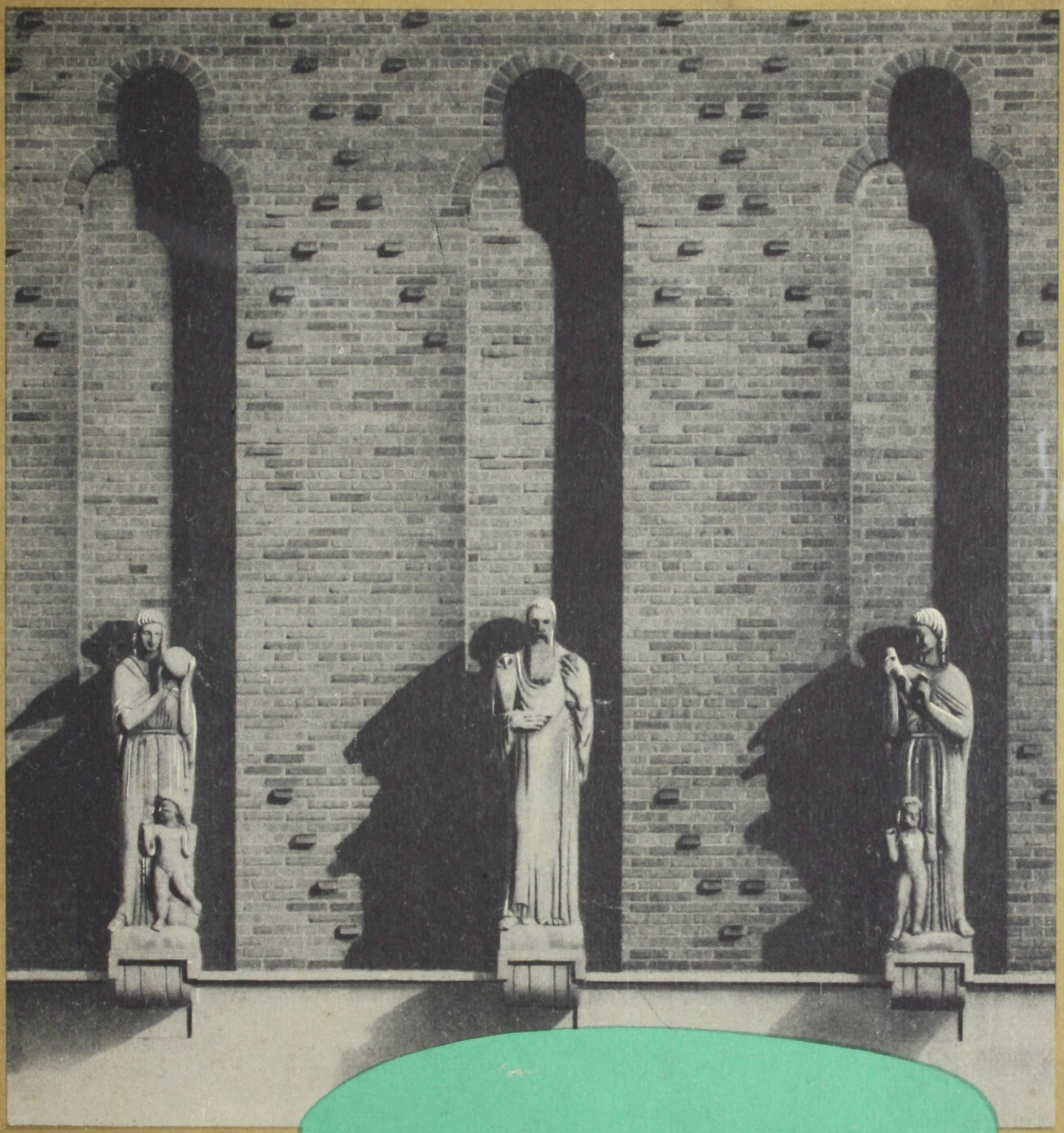
261



KETTON FREESTONE

TB

Introduction

To those interested in the usage of fine stone for building in strength and as architectural embellishment there is good news in the announcement that the Freestone Quarries at KETTON have re-opened following their forced closure during the war years.

The natural beauty and excellent physical characteristics of KETTON stone are well known to the architect and sculptor : examples of its ancient use are to be found in many famous buildings and, today, it continues to be used in the construction and architectural decoration of important buildings in many parts of the country.

In the pages which follow we reproduce photographs of some recent notable examples of the use of KETTON FREESTONE for building, sculpture and decorative masonry.

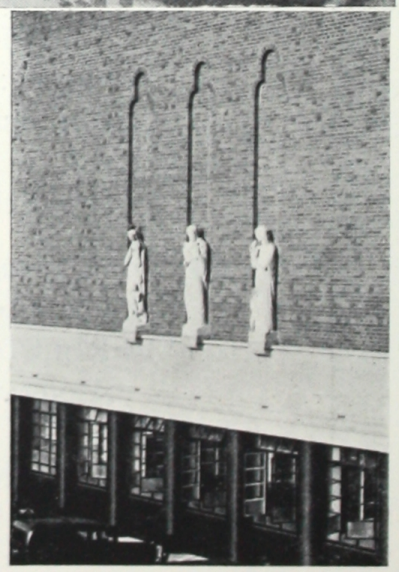
THE KETTON FREESTONE QUARRIES
(THE KETTON PORTLAND CEMENT CO. LTD.)
KETTON - RUTLAND

KETTON
FREESTONE

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The City Hall at Norwich is an outstanding example of the use of Ketton Freestone in a modern building.

The photograph reproduced above shows the general aspect of the building and the small inset shows how statuary carved in Ketton Freestone decorates another aspect. An enlargement of the left hand figure of this group is to be seen on page 8 and the three figures illustrate the front cover.



Architects :
C. H. James, R.A., F.R.I.B.A.
S. Rowland Pierce, F.R.I.B.A.
London.

Sculptural Work :
Mr. Alfred F. Hardiman, R.A., F.R.B.S.

Contractors :
Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co. Ltd.

Stonemasons :
Rattee & Kett, Ltd.

KETTON FREESTONE

KETTON FREESTONE

MAINLY HISTORICAL

During the Roman occupation a large camp was located at Great Casterton on the Great North Road, near Ketton, and prominent geologists have declared that the quarries at Ketton were undoubtedly worked by the Romans to furnish stone for many important buildings erected at that time. Be that as it may, there is no question that the quarries have been worked for many centuries, and the Royal Charter granted by Edward I permitting the working of the Quarries and the winning of the Freestone was probably one of the earliest items of interest in the historical life of the village of Ketton.

Ketton Freestone was supplied in quantity for the building of many of the Cambridge Colleges, and has been used in recent times for their repair and extension. Interesting old examples of its utilization may be found in Trinity, Downing, Emmanuel and Caius Colleges.

In mediaeval times the building of ecclesiastical structures was the chief architectural accomplishment of the community, and Ketton Stone was employed within the fabric of the cathedrals of Peterborough, Ely and Exeter. Its further use in ecclesiastical architecture may be found in the church of St. Dunstans (London), York Minster and many Parish Churches in and around the Counties of Northamptonshire and Rutland.

In more recent times Ketton Freestone was used exclusively on the building of the Law Courts in Fleet Street, and it is also to be found in the fabric of the Houses of Parliament.

Ketton Freestone is still available, its beauty and durability still exists to carry out repair work and to give enduring grace to the work of the present day architect and sculptor.

KETTON FREESTONE

ID 84-38980 TC



Architect :
Sir Herbert Baker, R.A.

Contractors :
W. Downs, Ltd., Walworth, S.E.17

CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES

DOWNING COLLEGE

Recent extensions at Downing College have been carried out in Ketton Freestone, the same beautiful stone in which the original buildings were constructed by Wilkins some 130 years ago.

In this connection an interesting correspondence arose in "The Cambridge Review" when the Very Reverend Dr. D. H. S. Cranage, the Dean of Norwich, expressed some doubt regarding the statement that the new buildings of Downing College were to be of Ketton Stone as used in the original buildings. It was said that the late Mr. John Watson, who collected and presented to the University of Cambridge a collection of building stones housed in the Sedgwick Museum, maintained that the true Ketton Stone was extinct.

Dr. Cranage ultimately expressed his satisfaction in a further letter to the Editor of "The Cambridge Review," as follows :—

KETTON FREESTONE

"SIR,—It is a great satisfaction to me to read the letter in your issue of January 20th from the Bursar of Downing College. The discovery of a first-rate bed of Ketton Stone is one of great importance. Ketton Stone has always been recognised as one of the most beautiful building stones in England, and, till the discovery of this bed, it had been supposed by all authorities on the subject that no more could be obtained. The late Mr. John Watson would have rejoiced greatly at the news, and I trust that there may be provided from the re-opened bed a sample to place beside other Ketton blocks in Mr. Watson's great collection at the Sedgwick Museum.

All who are interested in fine building will congratulate the Bursar, Dr. Hamshaw Thomas, and indeed Downing College in general, on a discovery of such importance."

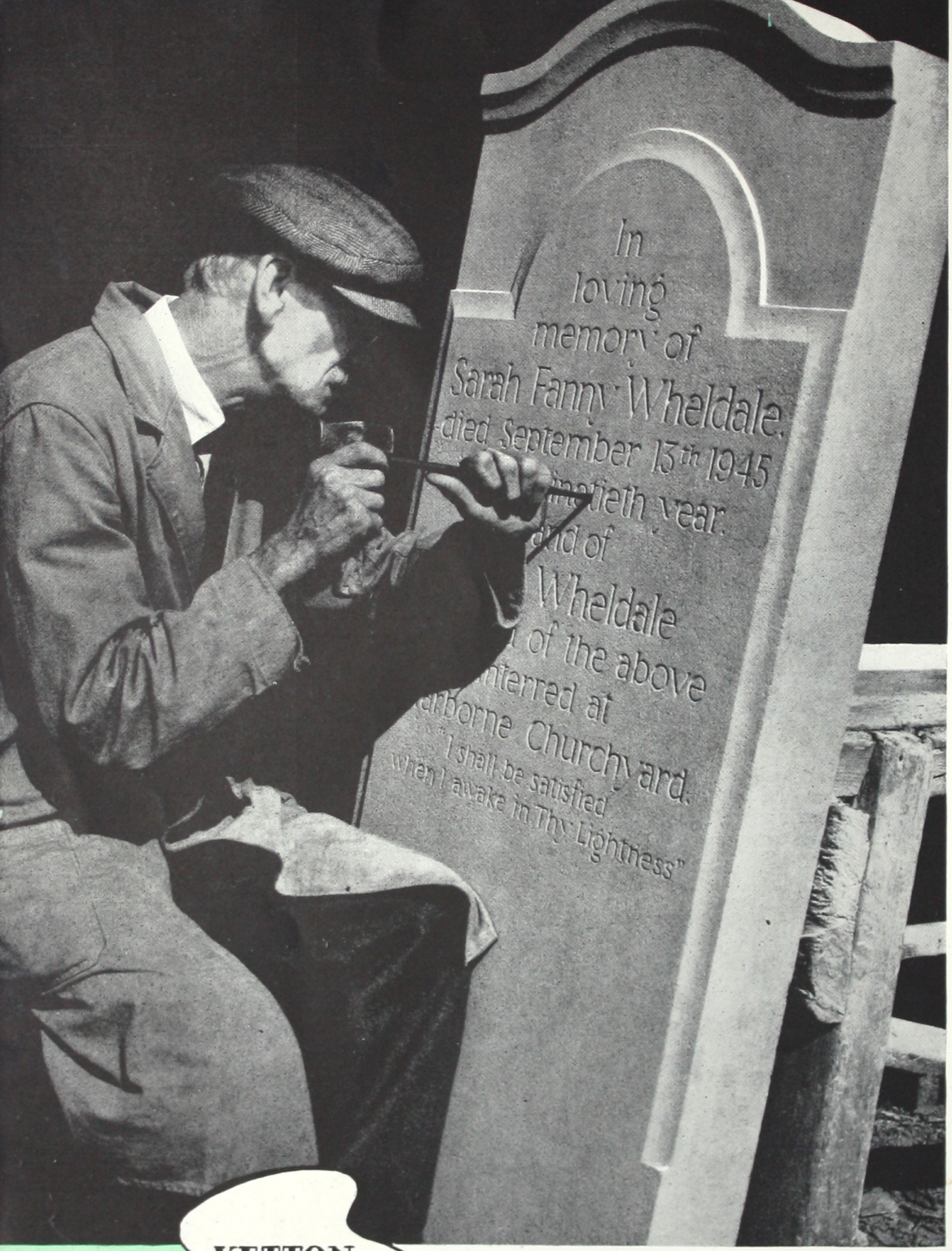
Your obedient servant,

D. H. S. CRANAGE

THE DEANERY, NORWICH,
Jan. 31*st*, 1933.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE, FRONT COURT
A memorable example of the use of Ketton Freestone (1662-1665)—one of many fine buildings in Cambridge which demonstrate the weathering qualities of Ketton Stone.





Photograph by permission.

KETTON FREESTONE

The skill of the craftsman and the beauty of Ketton Freestone are clearly exemplified in this photograph of a mason at work on a memorial inscription.

Ketton Freestone is an excellent medium for monumental masonry, and similar inscribed tablets.

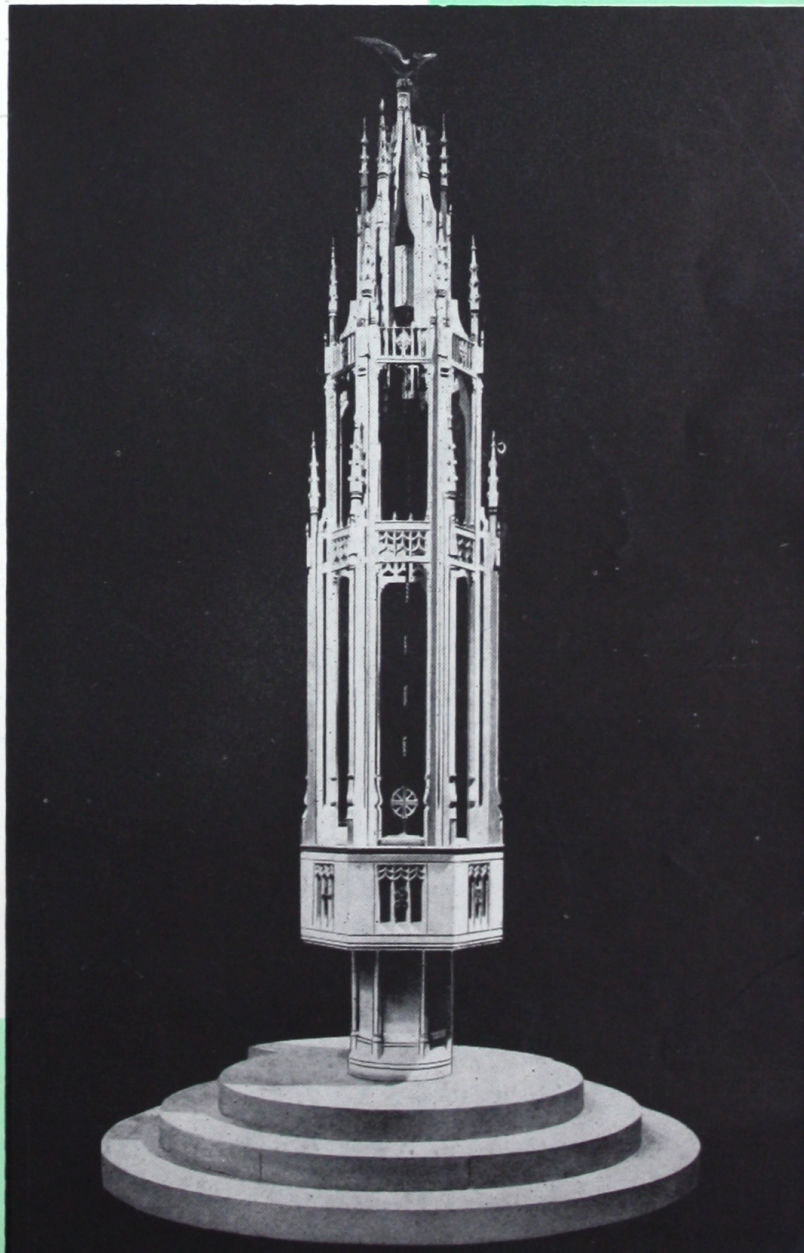
ECCLESIASTICAL WORK and MEMORIALS

The churchyards in and around Ketton provide many examples of the uses of Freestone for memorial stones. These monuments—many of them dating as far back as the beginning of the 19th Century—have been worked in very small designs, demonstrating clearly that the stone is admirably suited to this purpose.

Similarly, the stone is extensively used for ornamental ecclesiastical work. Fonts, screens and interior memorials have been made of Ketton Freestone—, and a good example of the detail to be achieved in this medium is shown in the font here depicted.

Soft when first quarried the stone is easy to work. On exposure to atmosphere, however, it hardens, and the numerous examples mentioned above show how excellent are its weathering qualities.

A report of a Special Committee of the British Institute of Industrial Art on "Graveyard Memorials in Stone and Wood," includes Ketton Freestone in the list of British stones suitable for graveyard monuments.



FONT AT BOLTON PARISH CHURCH
by
Rattee & Kett Ltd., Cambridge

Architect :
R. S. Nickson, M.A., A.R.I.B.A., A.A.Dipl.



KETTON FREESTONE

SCULPTURAL WORK

For the sculptor Ketton Freestone provides a medium perfect in its physical characteristics.

Its texture as quarried is close grained and soft ; there is a complete absence of bedding planes ; the individual oolitic grains are even in size and there is a remarkable absence of shell fragments. Its colour for general architectural purposes is a pleasing yellow brown colour toning perfectly with surrounding media, although for certain sculptural work a limited quantity of a soft pink tinted variety may be obtained. The sculptured figure on the left—one of a trio shown on the front cover of this booklet —is the work of Mr. A. F. Hardiman, R.A., F.R.B.S. Further reference may be found on page 2.

"The celebrated Ketton Freestone is a beautiful oolitic limestone of good colour, combining great freedom of working with remarkable powers of resisting crushing force, and wonderful durability.

It is almost wholly made up of very uniform oolitic grains, exhibits scarcely any trace of bedding planes, and can be placed indifferently in any position in buildings without exhibiting any tendency to weathering.

The Ketton Freestone is highly valued by architects and its employment is frequently specified by them in cases where great strength is required in any particular construction."

The above is an extract from "Memoirs of Geological Survey of England and Wales"—County of Rutland, by John W. Judd, F.G.S., published 1875.



GONVILLE AND CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, COURTYARD FRONT

Architects :
J. Murray Easton, F.R.I.B.A.,
Stanley Hall, Easton & Robertson

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

For business premises and office buildings Ketton Freestone has been used extensively by the architect. It tones admirably with brickwork and gives to otherwise strictly utilitarian conceptions a beauty and dignity exactly in keeping with the primary intention.

Another example of the application of Ketton Freestone to commercial premises will be found on the opposite page.



MARTIN'S BANK LTD., NORTHAMPTON
Photograph taken just before completion of the building

Architects :
Bromley, Cartwright & Waumsley, Derby

Contractors :
White & Joyce, Northampton



Architects: A. E. King Co. - Loughborough

Contractors : F. Read & Son, Loughborough

Stonework : Collin Bros., Loughborough

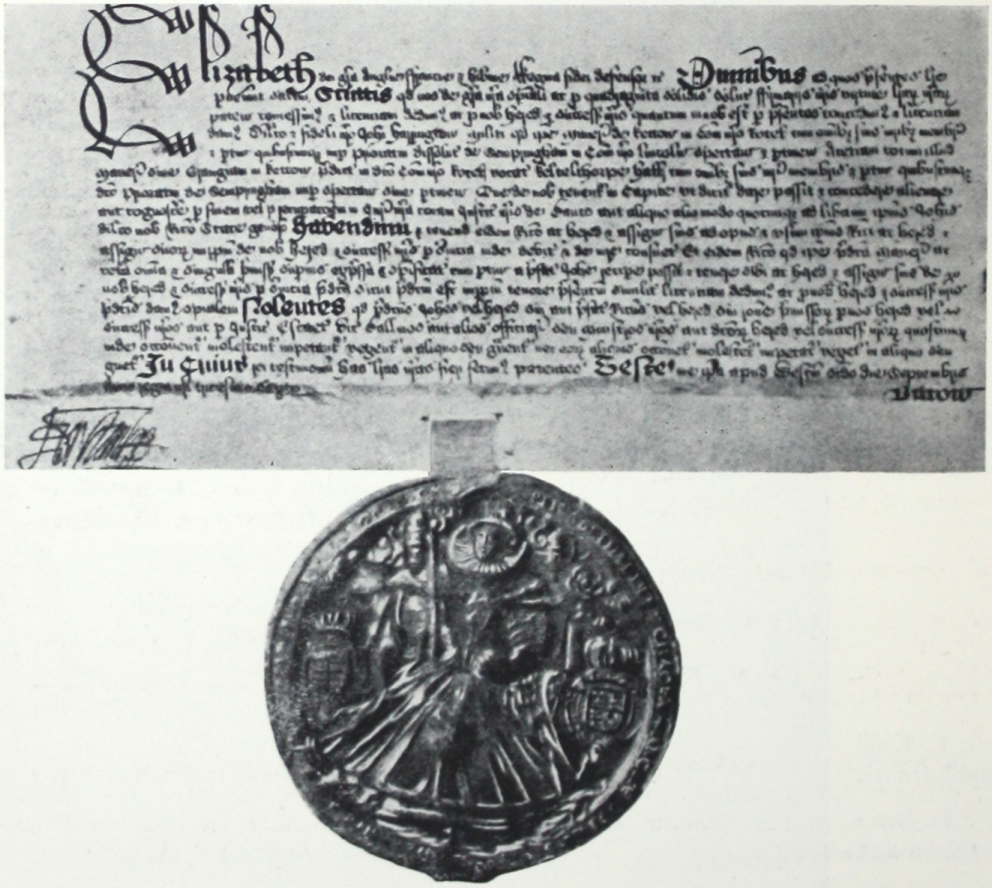
BAXTERGATE,
LOUGHBOROUGH

Offices for the Loughborough Building Society

KETTON FREESTONE

The Ketton Freestone Quarries are situated in Rutland within a few miles of Stamford.

The Quarries are owned and operated by the Ketton Portland Cement Co. Ltd., and the distribution of the Company's products is dealt with at ALBION WORKS, Sheffield, Telephone : 26311 (15 lines).



ANCIENT LEGAL DOCUMENT BEARING THE GREAT SEAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH, RELATING TO THE OWNERSHIP OF THE KETTON ESTATE, DATED 1594.

KETTON FREESTONE and the KETTON CEMENT PRODUCTS are distributed by THOS. W. WARD LTD., ALBION WORKS, SHEFFIELD

Some Pre-War Contracts to which

KETTON FREESTONE

was supplied

HAILEYBURY COLLEGE CHAPEL, HERTFORD
Architect: Sir H. Baker, F.R.I.B.A., London, S.W.1
Contractors: Henry Martin Ltd., Thanford Street, Northampton

Refacing of THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LTD., NORTHAMPTON
Contractors: A. Glenn & Sons, Ltd., Northampton

Rebuilding TRENT TAVERN, WILMOT STREET, STOKE-ON-TRENT
Architects: Messrs. Edward Fordshaw & Greaves, L. and A.R.I.B.A., 45, Trinity Street, Hanley.
Contractors: Bull & Robinson, Stoke-on-Trent

DERBY POLICE COURTS AND OFFICES
Architect: C. H. Aslin, F.R.I.B.A., Borough Architect, Derby
Contractors: William Downs Ltd., Walworth, S.E.17

NORWICH NEW CITY HALL
Architects: C. H. James & S. Rowland Pierce, FF.R.I.B.A., London, W.C.1
Contractors: Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co. Ltd., W.C.2
Stone Work: Ractue & Katt Ltd., Cambridge

EXTENSIONS TO TECHNICAL COLLEGE, NORMANTON ROAD, DERBY
Architect: C. H. Aslin, F.R.I.B.A., Borough Architect, Derby
Contractors: Borough Building Dept., Kings Chambers, Queens Street, Derby

EXTENSIONS TO DOWNING COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
Architect: Sir Herbert Baker, F.R.I.B.A., London, S.W.1
Contractors: William Downs Ltd., Walworth, S.E.17
Stone Work: Layton & Leach, Cambridge

NEW OFFICES, BAXTERGATE, LOUGHBOROUGH, for the Loughborough Building Society
Architects: A. E. King & Co., Loughborough
Contractors: F. Read & Son, Leopold Street, Loughborough
Stone Work: Cullin Bros., 42/43, Baxter Gate, Loughborough

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY, NEW UNION BUILDINGS
Architect: Stephen Welch, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., Sheffield
Contractors: D. O'Neill & Son, Solly Street, Sheffield

KILBY CANAL BRIDGE, for the Leicestershire County Council
Engineer: Lt. Col. J. E. Blackwall, D.S.O., B.A., M.Inst. I.E., County Surveyor, Leicestershire County Council
Contractors: A. E. Farr Ltd., London, S.W.1

MARTINS BANK, COVENTRY
Architects: Bromley, Cartwright & Waumsley, Nottingham
Contractors: R. Costain & Sons, Frankerley, Liverpool
Stone Work: Jackson Bros. (Bulwell) Ltd., Bulwell

CLIFFSBROOK HALL, NORTHAMPTON
Architects: Wellesley & Wills, F.R.I.B.A., London, N.W.1
Contractors: Henry Green, Northampton

EXTENSIONS TO COUNTY BUILDINGS, GUILDHALL STREET, NORTHAMPTON
Architect: County Architect, Northampton
Contractors: White & Co., Midland Road, Wellingborough

CURRENT CONTRACTS INCLUDE:

Repairs to BUCKINGHAM PALACE
Contractors: Nine Elms Stone Masonry Works, Lambeth

Further extensions to DOWNING COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
Stone Work: Ractue & Katt Ltd.

Repairs to WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
Contractors: Nine Elms Stone Masonry Works, Lambeth

Repairs to ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL, CAMBRIDGE

THE KETTON FREESTONE QUARRIES - KETTON - RUTLAND